

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 remain pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11, and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5-7 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claim 1 from which they depended. Thus, claims 5-7 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, claims 8 and 9 were not rejected. Thus, claims 8 and 9 are assumed by Applicants to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 8. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Thus claims 11 and 12 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Applicants defer correction of the noted defects in Figures 1-3 until the application is allowed.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 449122008200.

Dated: December 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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